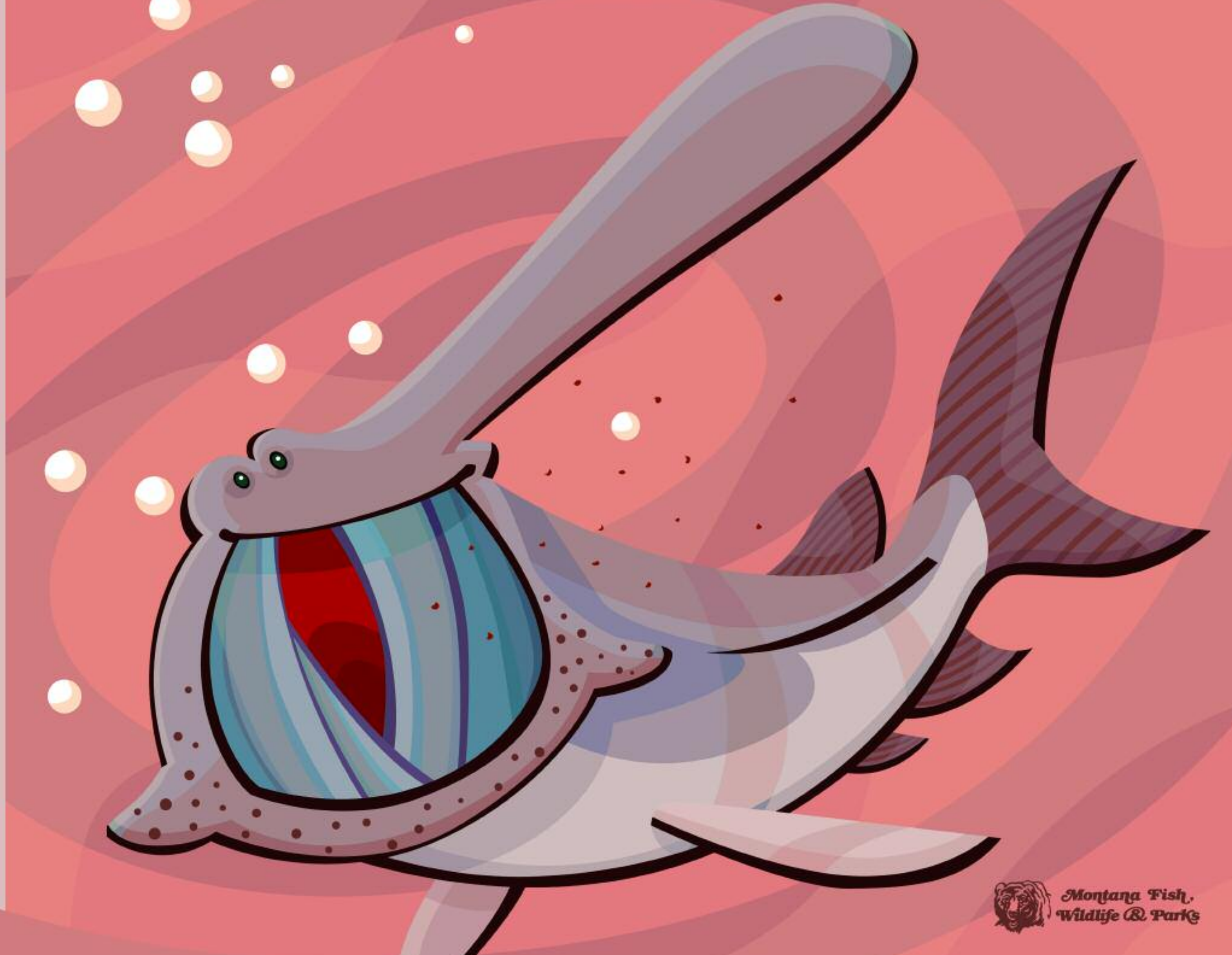


MONTANA'S UNCOMMON CRITTERS!

PADDLEFISH

Imagine a fish with a canoe paddle at the end of its head. That's the paddlefish. This odd-looking fish lives in big, warm rivers like the Yellowstone and the Missouri. This is a prehistoric species that was around when dinosaurs were living here. Unlike most fish, the paddlefish has almost no scales, only skin. The paddlefish uses its paddle to sense the electrical charges made by tiny creatures called zooplankton. It eats by sucking in water and then straining out the zooplankton with filters in its gills. The big threat to paddlefish are dams, which block the fish from swimming upstream and downstream.



Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks